essential commodities, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Retail open market prices of sugar, rice, wheat and other cereals in Delhi have generally remained steady over the past two months.

(c) Does not arise.

Loss to tobacco growers due to damping off and Black Shank Diseases

2474. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tobacco growers in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh have suffered huge losses due to damping off and Black Shank diseases of Tobacco;

(b) whether Tobacco Research Stations at Hunsur and Rajahmundry have suggested to Government to supply Didomill to the growers through Tobacco Board or State Agriculture Department to effectively control these diseases of Tobacco; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The fungicide Ridomil is not available in the country. The Central Tobacco Research Institute is being advised to take up testing of suitable substitutes for generating data against these two diseases.

Call to treat Muslims as socially backward community

2475. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to the news item published in the Times of India of 14th October, 1986 regarding call by a former member of Planning Commission to treat Muslims s socially backward community instead of a religious group and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government are aware of a general feeling of neglect amongst various minority groups and, if so, what corrective steps Government propose in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir. According to the news item published in the Times of India of 14 October, 1986 a former Member of the Planning Commission is reported to have made a statement on the lines mentioned in the question.

(b) It would not be a correct to say that there is a general feeling of neglect amongst various minority groups.

Delay in implementation of the Narmada Project

2476. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is abnormal and indefinite delay in implementation of the Narmada project in Gujarat;

(b) what is the actual cost that Gujarat has to incur per day for the delay in implementation of this project and what is the per day loss Government have to suffer due to this delay and the money already spent or invested on this project;

(c) what is the amount by way of commitment charges that Gujarat Government is required to pay to the World Bank on this project;